

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A fire protection zone penetrating member, comprising:

a cylindrical body formed of thermally expanding graphite, thermally expanding rubber, or thermally expanding resin as a main ingredient with one expanding slot provided on the cylindrical body in the longitudinal direction thereof, wherein a V-shaped cut piping inlet section is provided at an entrance of the expanding slot, said cylindrical body having an oval cross section, wherein a metal plate ~~or metal plates are~~ is adhered to the entire external peripheral surface of said cylindrical body ~~or to both sides of said expanding slot.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim 1, wherein the piping inlet section is provided at an entrance at one edge section of the expanding slot.

4. (Original) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim 1, wherein the piping inlet sections are provided at entrances in both edge sections of the expanding slot.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim 1, wherein the piping inlet section is provided at an entrance at one edge section of the expanding slot.

7. (Previously Presented) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim 1, wherein the piping inlet sections are provided at entrances in both edge sections of the expanding slot.

8 - 10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A fire protection zone penetrating member, comprising:

a cylindrical body formed of thermally expanding graphite, thermally expanding rubber, or thermally expanding resin, said cylindrical body having a first cylindrical body edge and a second cylindrical body edge, said first cylindrical body edge and said second cylindrical body edge defining an expanding slot and a V-shaped cut piping inlet section located at one end of said cylindrical body, said expanding slot extending in a longitudinal direction of said cylindrical body, said cylindrical body having an oval cross section and an outer cylindrical body surface;

a metal plate adhered to said outer cylindrical body surface such that said metal plate extends from said first cylindrical body edge to said second cylindrical body edge, whereby said metal plate engages the entire outer cylindrical body surface of said cylindrical body.

12. (New) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim 11, wherein said first cylindrical body edge and said second cylindrical body edge define another V-shaped cut piping inlet section located at another end of said cylindrical body.

13. (New) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim 11, wherein said thermally expanding rubber includes 40 to 50 weight % of flame-resistant rubber, 10 to 15 weight % of an inorganic filler, 20 to 25 weight % of an inorganic expanding material, 10 to 15 weight % of softener and 3 to 5 weight % of metal oxide.

14. (New) A fire protection zone penetrating member, comprising:

a cylindrical body formed of thermally expanding graphite, thermally expanding rubber, or thermally expanding resin, said cylindrical body having a first cylindrical body edge and a second cylindrical body edge, said first cylindrical body edge being located at a spaced location from said second cylindrical body to define an expanding slot extending in a longitudinal direction of said cylindrical body, said first cylindrical body edge and said second cylindrical body edge defining a V-shaped cut piping inlet section located at one end of said cylindrical body, said cylindrical body having an oval cross section and an outer cylindrical body surface;

a first metal plate adhered to said outer cylindrical body, said first metal plate being located at a spaced location from said first cylindrical body edge;

a second metal plate adhered to said outer cylindrical body, said second metal plate being located at a spaced location from said second cylindrical body edge, said second metal

plate being located at a spaced location from said first metal plate such that said first metal plate is opposite said second metal plate.

15. (New) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim 14, wherein said first cylindrical body edge and said second cylindrical body edge define another V-shaped cut piping inlet section located at another end of said cylindrical body.

16. (New) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim 14, wherein said thermally expanding rubber includes 40 to 50 weight % of flame-resistant rubber, 10 to 15 weight % of an inorganic filler, 20 to 25 weight % of an inorganic expanding material, 10 to 15 weight % of softener and 3 to 5 weight % of metal oxide.

17. (New) The fire protection zone penetrating member according to claim 11, wherein said metal plate has an oval cross section.